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Sonoma	August 16
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Ventura	September 6
Alameda	September 15
Sierra	September 27
Alameda	October 6

### FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

Alameda	June 7
Ventura	June 13
Alameda	June 28
Sierra	July 4
Alameda	July 19
Sonoma	July 25
Alameda	August 9
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Alameda	August 30
Sierra	September 5
Alameda	September 20
Sonoma	September 26
Alameda	October 11

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## ENLIGHTENING WENTWORTH

By Keith Gordon

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It was with some misgivings that Wentworth took the third floor of Mrs. Manice's house. Had she not told him that she was almost an invalid? And when the mistress of a house is an invalid! He had half a mind to go back and tell her that he had reconsidered; that he feared, after all, that the rooms wouldn't do. He slackened his pace, turned, then went on. Perhaps things would be all right, but a fellow did so hate household discomfort.

On the second morning after his arrival, when he sat like a bewildered monarch among a piled up, shapeless mass of books, pictures, tables and chairs—wondering why under heaven he had ever acquired them—there came a knock at his door. At the moment he was perched upon a step ladder, smoking a short pipe and taking a rest before he fatigued himself by beginning to arrange things.

"Come in!" he roared, without moving, expecting to see a servant. Then, at a slight hesitation on the part of the person—a hesitation that he felt rather than saw—he turned toward the door.

"Oh! Ah! I beg your pardon!" he apologized with alacrity, laying down his pipe and jumping from his perch. "You see I'm a bit flustered. I'm—"

He paused rather helplessly, waiting for his caller to explain herself, though he felt vaguely that she was welcome, thought she had dropped from the clouds, so frank was her gaze, so fascinating the way the thick hair rippled away from the low, broad forehead, so utterly womanly her face.

"Mamma sent me," she explained. "I'm Miss Manice, and she thought perhaps the maid and I might be able to help you out."

She looked about the room inquiringly; then, as her eyes came back to the new lodger's blank, helpless face, she caught her lower lip between her teeth, thus holding back the smile that struggled to escape.

"Have you ever moved?" he asked ruefully, surveying his helter skelter possessions with fresh aversion, and at the question she laughed out a laugh so girlish and infectious that Wentworth laughed, too, catching for a moment the point of view from which his dilemma was funny.

"What the world needs," he went on plaintively, "is automatic, self arranging furniture—furniture that, placed in the room, will adjust itself and save its owner all trouble."

"That's what we will have when the millennium comes," answered Miss Manice gayly, "but meanwhile, if you really loathe the task of arranging your things and will leave it to me!" She paused questioning, while Wentworth gazed at her very much as if she were the straw and he the drowning man. Again her face dimpled.

"You wouldn't—not really?" doubted he, with the shamefaced air of a person who has taken a palpable jest in earnest.

"I'd just love it—that is, if you think I can arrange the room to suit you. You might give me a general idea of how you like things, and—"

Wentworth cut her short. "If you can give me something of the look of that little drawing room of yours," he said warily. "I shall be more than satisfied. The fact is, you have saved my life," he finished candidly.

"Wait until you see the rooms," she cautioned as they parted, he to go to his office with a burden off his shoulders and she to confide to her mother as she got into a great apron that covered her from neck to ankles.

"He seems a nice, grateful lodger man, mother mine. Perhaps it won't be so hideous to have a stranger in the house after all. And think of the money!"

When Wentworth opened the door of his sitting room that evening quick approval flashed into his eyes. All the inanimate objects that had huddled together so inconspicuously in the morning, as if there wasn't an ounce of self respect among them, now faced him with serene dignity, once more clothed in the beauty for which he had bought them.

Awestruck at such insight, he passed into his bedroom, half fearing that here the charm would be broken, that convenience would have been sacrificed to "looks" and that he would have to dive into a pocket nailed to the closet door for one slipper and then dive again for the other. At the sight of them standing openly and demurely beside the fireplace Wentworth voiced the highest praise to be spoken of woman.

"Bless her heart!" he said softly. "She ought to be a bachelor's wife!"

During the three months that followed this conviction grew more and more fervent. His admiration for the skill with which Ethel Manice (at other times a merry, companionable girl) ran the household, reducing friction to the minimum, making life a continual joy, grew into a sort of religion to him. And it was something of this sort that he said to her one night, scarce knowing that he was saying it and adding to it a humble request that she marry him.

She looked at him oddly for a moment. Then she laid her hand upon his arm and said half kindly, half mockingly:

"What you want is a housekeeper. Mr. Wentworth, not a wife." Then, a little more earnestly, "Please let us not remember." And Wentworth, feel-

ing more discomfited than he cared to admit to himself, did his best to obey her.

After this life flowed smoothly on for another six months, the ripples closing over the night when Wentworth was rejected and leaving no sign.

It seemed sometimes as if his latch-key admitted him to another world where all was order, simple beauty and good will, where every hour made him stronger and better. Little by little he had become a part of the small family, often making a third in their cozy drawing room—sometimes talking, sometimes reading and again scolding or advising Ethel with the freedom of a big brother.

His appreciation of the delightful homeliness and ease led him into his second blunder. It was a blustering night in November. On her couch Mrs. Manice, who had been less well than usual, lay sleeping, while Ethel, who had been playing Schubert with dreamy unconsciousness, wandered off into some improvisations of her own.

Presently Wentworth laid down the book that he was reading with an almost suffocating sense of the deafness of it all. Then suddenly Ethel stopped playing and rose from the piano. The action seemed significant. Wentworth was jarred by the thought that just as abruptly might the slender thumb by which he held this attic delightful home be snapped. Mrs. Manice might grow worse; Ethel might—

He gave a sharp sigh. He would not suffer the thought, and again from the fullness of his heart he spoke.

"Ethel," he pleaded, "is it so impossible? I can't tell you what all this is to me. How could I ever get along without you?"

But again he was stopped by that odd, impenetrable glance. Again with a smile, half kind, half mocking, she looked up at him and answered, "You want a companion, not a wife." Again they gravely agreed not to remember.

And soon after the illness of a married sister called her away. The weeks came and went, and her stay prolonged itself dimly. It seemed to Wentworth, though under Mrs. Manice's direction things went on as smoothly as usual. Apparently everything was the same, and yet he smarted under an intolerable sense of difference. All the creature comforts were there and pleasant companionship, yet the soul of things had fled. And then suddenly he understood, and the knowledge made him strong and humble.

It was on the evening of Ethel's return that he found himself alone with her for a few moments.

"Dear little girl," he said brokenly. "I'm not asking you to marry me. I'm not mad enough to do that again. But I want to tell you this—that I love you with my whole heart; that I shall always love you; that I would rather have loved you in vain than—"

Two slender arms were about his neck, and a soft voice was saying: "At last, you darling, I really believe that you want a wife."

### A Willful Gentle.

Malibran, the singer, was an artist who deserved her success, for her greatest triumphs came from the hardest work. Her voice was not a miracle of nature. It was gold, says one of her biographers, but it was gold that had to be dug from the earth, smelted and made pliable under the hammer. One day she was overheard at her practicing in gusts of angry apostrophe.

"I'll see whether I cannot make you obey me," she was saying to her voice. "I'll see whether you will obey me." For her the word "impossible" did not exist. If her voice was out of order or her throat refused to obey she accomplished amazing effects by sheer force of will. Perhaps it was fortunate that her career was not a long one. No human powers could have endured the strain she placed habitually upon this gift of hers.

One day she executed a shake upon the highest notes of her register. She laughed then at the amazement of her listeners.

"That brute of a note has given me no end of trouble," said she. "I have been trying to get it for the last month. I tried it while dressing and while I was doing my hair. I tried it when I was taking my walks and while I was riding. At last I got hold of it this morning while I was tying my shoe-strings."

"And where did you find it, madame?"

"There!" she answered, laughing and putting her finger to her forehead.

### An Exclusive Affair.

"It was settled some time ago that he was to marry my daughter," said the father of a girl of the period, "but it yet remained for the young man to get my consent. It was merely a formality, however, as my girl had arranged matters to suit herself without consulting me or my wishes."

"Now, I remembered with what trepidation I had approached my wife's father when I asked him for her hand, and I made up my mind that when that young man showed up to ask me for my daughter's hand I would have revenge not only for what I had to pass through when I urged my suit, but also for being relegated to the background during the present proceedings."

"Well, he called at my office the other day, and I told my office boy to admit him and leave us alone and see that we were not disturbed."

"Just dropped in," said he easily, declining to take a seat, "to tell you that I am going to marry your daughter on the 15th of next month. It will be an informal affair, so you may consider yourself invited without further notice. Good day."

"Before I could catch my breath he was gone, and when I complained to my daughter about his treatment of me all the comfort I got was that I could consider myself fortunate in getting an invitation, as it was to be a very exclusive affair."

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